

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Applicants submit that the instant amendment is proper for entry after final rejection. Applicants submit that no question of new matter nor are any new issues raised in entering the instant amendment of the claims and that no new search is required.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner enter the instant amendment, consider the merits of the same, and indicate the allowability of the present application and each of the pending claims.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 2, 6 and 9 will have been amended. Claims 1-12 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Objection to the Title of the Application

In the Official Action, the Examiner has again objected to the Specification because (in the Examiner's Opinion) the title of the invention is non-descriptive. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner above-mentioned rejection.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the present title of a "Card Connector for Facilitating Insertion/Ejection of a Card" adequately describes the presently claimed

invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the title of the present Specification.

Objections to the Drawings and Specification

In the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the Drawings for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims, and to the Specification for not describing the features which the Examiner asserts are not shown in the Drawings. More specifically, the Examiner asserts that the first side-face, the second side-face, and a direction defined by these side faces must be shown in the Drawings and described in the Specification. Also, the Examiner asserts that reference numerals 4c and 20 have both been used to designate the same element in Figures 1A and 1B of the Drawings.

In order to address the Examiner's concerns, Applicants submit that claim 1 has been amended to recite that the presently claimed direction extends generally perpendicular to the first side-face and the second side-face.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the aforementioned features are clearly illustrated in at least the non-limiting embodiment of Figures 1A and 1B of the Drawings of the present Application. For example, the stopper 4c is provided at the first side-face and the stopper 5 is provided at the second side-face. Further, the orientation between the first and second side-faces is clear from at least Figures 1A and 1B of the Drawings. Additionally, Applicants have amended the Specification, where appropriate, to clarify the terminology in the originally filed Specification which corresponds to the presently claimed first and second side-faces.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present claim language is illustrated in the Drawings and described in the Specification, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the above-mentioned objections.

In regard to the Examiner's assertion that reference numerals 4c and 20 have both been used to designate the same element (i.e., in Figure 1A and 1B of the Drawings), Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. In this regard, Applicants submit that "4c" designates a stopper (i.e., generally shown extending perpendicular to a base 3 of the connector illustrated in the non-limiting embodiment of Figures 1A and 1B) and that "20" designates a stationary hook (i.e., generally shown extending perpendicularly from the stopper "4c"). Accordingly, the Examiner's objection to Figures 1A and 1B is improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter which was not described in such a way to reasonably convey that the Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed.

More specifically, the Examiner asserts that the first side-face, the second side-face, and a direction defined by these side-faces, have not been described in the present Specification.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants submit that the Specification has been amended, non-limiting Figures 1A and 1B of the Drawings have been explained, and the claims have been amended (where appropriate) to

clarify that the presently claimed direction extends generally perpendicular to the first side-face and the second side-face, as discussed supra.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is improper for at least the reasons discussed supra (*i.e.* as discussed in relation to the objection to the Drawings and Specification, and in view of the present claim language) and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that the structural relationship between the shell and the body is missing; that the recitation of the shell having the stopper and the stopper being provided on the body is confusing; and that it is unclear how a recess, which is an open space, can comprise the base.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants submit that claim 1 has been amended, where appropriate, to address the Examiner's concerns.

More specifically, Applicants submit that claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the shell is coupled to the base; thus, Applicants submit that the present claim language provides an adequate structural relationship between the shell and base.

In regard to the Examiner's assertion concerning the stopper being provided on the body, Applicants submit that claim 1 actually recites that the shell has a stopper and that the stopper is provided "*at a first side-face of the body.*" Thus, Applicants submit

that the aforementioned recitation is clearly consistent with the non-limiting embodiment of Figures 1A and 1B of the Drawings, which show the stopper 4c extending from the shell 4 at a first side-face of the body 2 (the body comprising both the base 3 and the shell 4).

In regard to the Examiner's assertion that it is unclear how a recess can comprise a base, Applicants submit that claim 1 has been amended to clarify that at least a portion of the base defines a bottom face of the recess. In this regard, Applicants submit that the presently claimed recess (e.g., a space configured to receive a card) is clearly defined by surfaces of the body.

In regard to the Examiner's other reasons for rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, Applicants submit that these reasons for rejecting the claims are improper for at least the reasons discussed supra, i.e., in relation to the objection to the Drawings and Specification, and in view of the present claim language, and should be withdrawn.

Thus, Applicants submit that the above-mentioned objections and the rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the herein-contained remarks, Applicants submit that independent claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2-12, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their dependencies from independent claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY

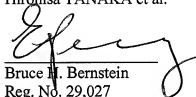
Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have addressed the Examiner's objection to the Drawings and Specification, as well as the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants submit the status of the present application as being after final rejection and with respect to such status believes that there is a clear basis for the entry of the present amendment consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants note amendments after final are not entered as a matter of right; however, Applicants submit that the present amendment does not raise the question of new matter. Moreover, the present amendment clearly places the present application in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hirohisa TANAKA et al.



Bruce M. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

March 6, 2008
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Enoch E. Peavey
Reg. No. 57,686